and base 16 are sonically welded together in order to provide a fluid tight seal therebetween.

On page 9, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 29 with the following paragraph.

Referring now particularly to Figures 1 and 4, the casing 12 includes a chamber 42 and an observation portion 44. More specifically, the chamber 42 defines a pocket 48 sized and adapted to contain a predetermined volume of a fluid sample. The pocket 48 is sized for containing a predetermined volume of fluid specimen necessary to run all of the test elements 22 to completion following quick momentary submersion into the test fluid. As a specific example, device 10 is adapted to accommodate five test elements 22 and each test element 22 requires about 50 microliters (which is about one drop) of fluid (e.g. urine) for completion. Consideration is of course given to the small volume of fluid that will naturally be retained by the sample pad 28. The pocket 48 in this example is sized to contain about 0.3 mL (i.e. 300 microliters) of urine.

On page 10, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 12 with the following paragraph:

Importantly, the chamber 42 further defines a feed element 52, shown in Figures 4 and 5. As shown in Figure 5, the cover 14 and base 16 define a generally hollow cavity 54 in which the testing assembly 18 is disposed. The feed element 52 is defined by an interior surface 55 of the casing cover 14. Referring now briefly to Figure 4,

the feed element 52 includes a generally planar surface 56. Turning as well to Figure 6, the generally planar surface 56 is in contact with and importantly, provides pressure against the sample pad 28. Advantageously, the structure of the feed element 52 and the pressure thereof against the sample pad 28 feature provides means for automatic controlled specimen metering of the fluid specimen from the pocket 48 and onto the sample pad 28, after the device 10 is manually dipped (preferably for a maximum duration of between about one second and about five seconds) into the test fluid.

On page 12, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 with the following paragraph:

The appropriate volume of fluid sample for running the test may be deposited in the pocket 48 by simply dipping the chamber 42 of the device 10 into a fluid collection cup (not shown) containing a urine specimen. No precise timing is necessary. A brief one second to about five second dip assures that the appropriate volume of test fluid will be deposited in the pocket 48.

On page 14, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 27 with the following paragraph.

More particularly, once a specimen has been collected in a collection cup (not shown), for example after a test subject has filled a collection cup with urine, the technician or analyst can perform the entire assaying procedure by grasping the device 10 by contours 64 and finger grip 66 and dipping the device 10 into a fluid

specimen, at least up to a "fill-line" 98 (see Figure 1), but not as far as the observation windows 72. After briefly dipping the device 10 in the specimen, the device 10 may then be touched to an edge of the collection container to remove any droplets of urine adhering to the casing 12, particularly on the dipped portion (i.e. chamber 42) of the casing 12. The device 10 having the pocket 48 filled with the fluid specimen is then placed on the table or counter top 88 in the horizontal position, such as shown in Figure 5.

On page 15, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 9 with the following paragraph.

Advantageously, the damp or wet portion (i.e. chamber 42) of the device 10 is supported above and out of contact with the table or counter top 88 by means of the rail 84 depending from the base 16. This feature is designed to enhance laboratory efficiency and cleanliness, particularly in a laboratory where frequent and numerous assaying tests must be performed on a limited work space and within a short time period. For example, a potential time savings may be realized by minimizing work surface contamination since the fluid specimen is kept completely out of contact with the work surface even though the device is placed directly on the work surface as shown. It can be appreciated by those of skill in the art that the assaying device 10 in accordance with the invention is designed to contributes to a cleaner, more sanitary work area than conventional dip-and-read devices which require either the device be manually held during the testing procedure,